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8:00 a. m.	8:30 a. m.
8:45 a. m.	9:30 a. m.
9:15 a. m.	10:00 a. m.
4:30 p. m.	4:45 p. m.
4:50 p. m.	5:15 p. m.
5:30 p. m.	5:00 p. m.
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BUTTER AND CHICKENS

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Have Strong Odds With
Which to Contend.

The stenographic reporter of the House of Representatives, Mr. J. Dixon Avery, is, aside from being a stenographer, a great fancier of chickens and fine cattle. During his three and a half years' residence in Honolulu he has made a study of the conditions surrounding the poultry and creamery interests here, and in a recent number of "The Creamery Journal Red Book," published in Waterloo, Iowa, he has contributed an article embodying the same. The following is Mr. Avery's contribution in full:

It is four years since I went through "the April egg craze," but in reading The Egg Reporter and looking over its advertising columns it seems almost as though it was the season of '97 that was being portrayed. Prices are different but the same old story of bullish, irresponsible buyers in the country is there.

I presume, however, that you would rather hear a little something about the doings of the festive egg in "Hawaii" than in "the States." If there ever was a place where "eggs" it is in Uncle Sam's baby Territory. We do discriminate between goose eggs and hens' eggs, but, unless it has been introduced within the past few months, such a thing as candling eggs is unknown. That does not necessarily mean that we are behind the times, but on the other hand the rapid growth of Honolulu will make it necessary to candle eggs pretty soon. As it is, our supplies are drawn almost entirely from the suburbs, but each month adds to the importations of California eggs, and some eggs also come in from the country. So far as I know there are no eggs brought in from the other islands.

The eggmen here are Chinese truck gardeners, and they bring you eggs right to your door or to your nearest Chinese grocery store. The American merchants also buy from these sources, but most people prefer to deal with the little corner grocery, usually owned by a Chinese firm, on account of the eggs being fresher. These eggs are not sold by the dozen but so many for a dollar, or for a quarter, and the price varies from ten for a quarter down to seven or five for twenty-five cents. That is brought about by the method of trading, which is cash on the spot, unless your vegetable Chinaman knows you, and then, as a great accommodation, he will extend you a "line of credit" until the end of the week, but, like South Water street, "Monday is settlement day." In the three years and a half that I have been here I have never known eggs to go below thirty cents a dozen, and I believe the price has held pretty steady at between forty and fifty cents. The season does not make any difference materially with eggs here, as they usually have little chance to turn before they are used.

The most of the eggs that have been imported from the Mainland came from California, but Kansas eggs have been introduced here, and the finest Indiana eggs might also do well here. The imported eggs go mostly to the restaurant, but the larger American retail groceries, of which we have several magnificent establishments, are using them somewhat now.

Eggs here are mostly small, the hens not seeming to thrive for some reason, and on that account I ventured soon after coming to the islands to bring down some samples of good butter and eggs. The invoice called for about \$100, but the freight was about \$20; the custom house demanded a bond on account of some red tape not complied with. I handed through one of the largest grocers in the city, who got me thirty and thirty-five cents for the eggs and about the same price for Elgin butter, some bringing forty-five and even fifty cents, but when the stuff was about sold, I received a penal summons from the District Court to show cause why I should not be fined not to exceed \$100 for the heinous offense of having a little American enterprise. Notwithstanding I had conferred with the Chief Justice and he had looked up the precedents for me, I had the option of either paying a fine of not less than \$50 or taking out a "merchandise" license which cost \$50 and stamps in order to sell \$100 worth of goods. Of course, I took out the license, and, in addition, I had to contribute about \$15 to the public treasury for the violation of the revenue law. I was told there was question about the act being a violation and it would be reversed on appeal. Inasmuch as the local firm that was handling my goods paid a license to the Government on the very same goods that I was compelled to pay on, but lawyers are like eggs here—they come high, and I was not willing to invest any more money in the courts.

However, these eggs and the butter which came with them, together with a later shipment which I made on account of having the license anyway, made many friends here, and if there is an enterprising creamery concern or egg dealer that wants to put up a fine article he will find a market for it here, provided it is properly packed for transportation and is "bang up" to start with. Any defects, however, are brought to light in the long trip to Honolulu and it is useless to ship inferior goods to this market.

The only thing to compete with in the

egg line here is the freshness of the eggs. Size, strength and other desirable qualities are generally lacking, but so strong is the prejudice against "California eggs," as all imported eggs are usually called, that only energetic promotion backed up by absolutely reliable quality will sell the goods here.

In butter it is the same story. They have Jerseys and separators here galore. I understand the Holstein does a little the best here. But there is no new pasture. The pasture is in about the same condition the year around. There is no bracing and restful winter for the cattle; the milk is not up to Mainland standard and the cream and butter are consequently inferior. The butter lacks body, seems to be half water, and one pound of it will not last as long as half or three-quarters of a pound of California butter, which, in my opinion, is far below the Elgin article in all trade essentials. The "island butter" as it is called, is sweet, beautifully fresh, and brings sixty cents a pound year in and year out, while California rolls or pound squares bring forty-five cents per pound (indicated weight). New Zealand butter, the nearest approach to Elgin that we have had here, brings about forty cents, sometimes only thirty-five cents. It is my opinion that Elgin butter can be delivered here by making proper contracts with the steamship companies at a reasonable figure and in as good condition as the best that is delivered to the London market. Of course, conditions must be carefully studied. The market is limited, there being but 45,000 people in Honolulu, and the outside market is not as yet largely supplied with anything but island butter, but Elgin creamery concerns and Kansas egg dealers have overcome worse obstacles than are facing the entrance of these good things into the land where, since annexation and the overthrow at the polls last November of the "family compact," there is a chance. They have hitherto kept out all drummers under pain of paying a \$1,000 license or fine instead of a discouraged small dealer by a merchandise license system whereby the legitimate business of small storekeeping was taken from the American and given to Chinese and Japanese who could afford to pay the high license on their small income on account of their small expense for living. The drummer's license went with the Hawaiian flag, but the merchandise license was only killed a few weeks ago by the courts. This precious crowd of missionaries' sons have, since the accession of Kalaupapa (who gave us Pearl Harbor in exchange for protecting their sugar trust) held sway both politically and commercially for thirty years, successfully keeping out all competition by the most highly developed system of freezing out that Yankee brains ever devised. They are still fighting bona fide American immigration, preferring ignorant Porto Ricans and the lowest class of negroes, a class that will not trouble them by acquiring small land holdings, to sturdy pioneer American farmer, with his family, who has settled upon the great west, and who will be required here in large numbers ere long, and who will be able to find plenty of land to cultivate as soon as the big corporation leases on public lands begin to expire. Congress has declared that these lands must not be released to the sugar corporations, but must be held for small farmers, and the governor, having sent a special agent to Washington at territorial expense to lobby for the repeal of that clause, has now to face a joint resolution from the Legislature addressed to President McKinley, asking for his removal. At any rate, the fight is likely to be on in the next Congress and it will pay Americans who want to move this way to watch congressional proceedings on Hawaiian land matters.

This is the easiest country on earth (that is as well civilized and improved as our western states) to earn a living. The soil is rich; one can work the whole year around. We used to supply flour grown from Hawaiian wheat to California when that country was first opened up; coal is as cheap as at San Francisco; we are on the line of all the trans-Pacific routes. American schools were brought here by the missionaries in 1820. Hawaiian school exhibit at Paris received a grand prize. There has been an established government under the rule of a single monarch extending over our entire seacoast of 1,200 miles for over 100 years, and a parliamentary and constitutional government for over sixty years. Some of the mercantile houses of this city are now in their fifth year of continuous business, and dozens of our corporations are capitalized at over \$500,000, some even as high as \$10,000,000. We have several modest skyscrapers, two street railway systems, a government and a private electric light system, one of the prettiest opera houses on the Pacific coast, a wealthy and dressy and equally cultured social class, many of whom have traveled extensively and all of whom are exceptionally liberal in the support of high art in music, painting or theatrical attractions for a city of about 45,000 people. There is more wealth per capita in Hawaii than in any other country in the world, notwithstanding the enormous population of Asiatics, and life in such a country runs smoother than it does in a place where a great majority feel the pinch of poverty or where everyone is trying to make money so fast that you have to dodge the bill collector.

Give my regards to all the boys and tell them to drop in and see me when they go to China and if they want to move, come to "The Paradise of the Pacific," but don't come "broke," for it takes several months to get a foothold here, and until one is known, credit is not general.

Honolulu, T. H., May 4, 1901.

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